

# **MINUTES FOR THE ELVASTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2013 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, ELVASTON**

## **Present:**

Cllr RJ Strand (Chairman), Cllr P Bickerton (Vice Chairman), Cllr S Lee, Cllr B Sharp, Cllr G, Harper, Cllr S, Spenser, Cllr T Mansfield, Cllr R Russell, Heidi Sargeant (Clerk) and 4 members of the public

## **In Attendance:**

Cllr J. Harrison, District Cllr A. Watson

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everybody

## **PART 1 – NON CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

### **1. Apologies**

Cllr R McBride (holiday commitments)

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

None

### **3. Chairman's Announcement**

A statement was read out by the Chairman:

On the morning following the last few meetings, statements have been emailed around an extensive group of residents purporting to give information about decisions made during the previous evening's Parish Council meeting. In a number of instances the statements made have been inaccurate or ambiguous. They have led DCC/SDDC staff and officers to believe that Elvaston Parish Council has made decisions which it had not. This is both embarrassing for the Parish Council and has resulted in considerable extra work for our Parish Clerk who has had to correct the inaccurate statements that have been circulated. Official sets of minutes are produced for each and every meeting. These are posted both on parish noticeboards and on the parish website ([www.elvaston-pc.org.uk](http://www.elvaston-pc.org.uk)). Could I please request that residents are referred to these sources of information.

### **4. District Councillors Report – Ann Watson**

Fuel Poverty – Around £150,000 of funding has been secured to make homes in South Derbyshire more energy efficient and cheaper to heat. The grant was given to the Local Authorities Energy Partnership, which applied to the Department of Energy and Climate Change. South Derbyshire District Council and Derbyshire County Council will use the money to target households experiencing fuel poverty as a result of inefficient heating. Those in receipt of one of the following benefits could be eligible for support:

Pension Credit, Income Support, Income based Job Seekers Allowance, Child Tax Credits, Working Tax Credits, Council Tax benefit and housing benefit. Call SDDC Energy Advisor on 01283 595974 to check full criteria.

**Council Tax** – Highly unlikely that Council Tax will be increased

### **5. County Councillor's Report – John Harrison**

**First Time Buyers Mortgage Scheme** – DCC will be joining forces with Lloyds TSB to launch the Derbyshire Lend a Hand scheme to help dozens of first time buyers get on to the property ladder. They are expecting to launch the scheme in March once legal formalities are completed. Once underway first time buyers meeting the scheme's criteria will be eligible for a mortgage with a preferential interest rate if they can raise a 5 per cent deposit.

**Broadband Speeds** - DCC have approved a financial plan which paves the way to unlock a £7.39 million Government boost for improved broadband in Derbyshire. Hoping to bring a superfast broadband and its economic benefits to Derbyshire is one of their priorities.

**Council Tax** - A council tax freeze for the second year running has been confirmed by Derbyshire County Council. It means the council's share of council tax bills will not increase for a further 12 months.

## **6. Public Speaking:**

**Listed Tree's** – Resident expressed his concerns about the tree's which have been taken down on Shardlow Road, close to where the new bus shelter is being erected. He was concerned that some of these tree's may have been protected by a preservation order.

**B5010, Footpath Widening** – Resident confirmed how pleased he was that the works are now taking place but bad weather has put the workmen back slightly.

**Caravan, Thulston** – Resident expressed his concern about a caravan which has possibly been abandoned in Thulston and that police tape stating "police aware" has been attached to the vehicle. The resident was however told by Police that somebody was occupying the caravan making the removal of this very difficult.

## **7. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013 were approved and accepted as a true record and signed off by the Chairman.

## **8. Financial Report / Precept / Concurrent Expenses**

Clerk confirmed that the precept amount for this year has been set and agreed at £10,080. It was also confirmed that the previous years con-current expenses of £5,617 had not been claimed, therefore last years and this years of £6,314 will be paid directly to the Parish Council. The Clerk also confirmed that this funding could be used to help put something back into the community and any ideas from residents will be gladly received.

## **9. Sand & Gravel / Flooding Report**

Mr Waters (resident) confirmed that due to one of the flood bank valves being under water and therefore inaccessible, he has asked the EA to look at the flood bank valves to see if there is any correlation with them and the long standing water on the fields within the flood bank.

**10. Website Report** – Chairman confirmed that the Clerk would look into simplifying the parish website as currently it was felt that the site was a little too busy and needed updating.

**11. Castle Croft Footway** – The Chairman read out the following statement:

Since the last meeting it has been confirmed that the footpath in question was adopted by Derbyshire County Council in March 2002. The Parish Council has been informed that South Derbyshire District Council, Derby City and Derbyshire County Council would all be reluctant to pass any application for closure of a footpath already in public ownership, especially if, after canvassing, any residents indicated their wish for the right of way to be maintained. Following Elvaston Parish Council's canvassing exercise I can confirm that replies in favour of maintaining the right of way have been received and so the Parish Council will not be making an application for closure.

**12. Parish Committee Groups** – Cllr B, Sharp confirmed that he will no longer be on the Parish Plan Steering Committee and it was agreed that Cllr G, Harper would make a good replacement, Cllr G Harper confirmed that he will need to look into commitments at home before making a decision. Cllr T, Mansfield did confirm that he would be happy to be involved and take part during their meetings should Cllr G Harper not be able to participate.

## **01.02.13 - Councillors Report**

**Severn Trent Water** – Cllr S, Lee confirmed that he is in process of completing a letter to Severn Trent Water on behalf of the Boulton Moor residents regarding the charges for the surface water drainage.

**Mountfield Way, Boulton Moor** – Cllr G, Harper expressed his concern following the death of his family cat on Mountfield Way and the speed in which cars were driving through the estate and discussed the possibility of having a speeding sign (VAS) installed or a sign to make drivers aware that children are playing.

## **02.02.13 - Clerks Report**

**Parish Council Bank Account** – Clerk confirmed that all documents have been received by Natwest but some documents were not acceptable in adding the Clerk to the Account - Cllr B Sharp to look into further who is a signatory on the account.

**Sturges Lane, Thulston** – Correspondence received from a resident concerned about a large willow tree and it's branches which were growing over into neighbours gardens and across a public footpath. The recent winds were causing concerns and the worry of the branches possibly causing damage to walkers and property. Clerk to write to resident.

**Grit bins, Boulton Moor** – All bins refilled.

**Shardlow Road, Damaged sign** – Correspondence received regarding a damaged road sign on Shardlow Road, opposite the Thulston Junction, the sign has possibly corroded away and broken and no longer visible to drivers. Highways have been called and await repair.

**B5010, Pavement widening**- Letter sent to the Strategic Director at DCC requesting that the hedge be planted on the field side and not the fence side to avoid the hedge overgrowing on to the pavement again.

**Councillor Training** – Dates currently being discussed for new Councillors, Clerk and Chairman to attend

**Heart Defibrillator, Thulston** – It was discussed to look into the possibility of having this installed near the street light on the green area in Thulston, close to the parish notice board, it was discussed that this may be owned by Western Power – Clerk to look into

**Heart Defibrillator, Ambaston** – Clerk had noticed whilst driving to Ambaston that this appeared to be out of use as a sign has been placed on the box saying out of order. Clerk to look into

**Lengths-Person Vacancy** – No applications received as yet, closing date has been extended to the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013

**Dog Bins** – Request received to look into having an additional dog bin installed in the Thulston / Elvaston area – Members confirmed that sufficient bins were in the area.

**Windmill Close, Boulton Moor** – Correspondence received from a resident who is concerned about the grass areas on his road which cars are driving and parking on, causing an unsightly mess. Request made by the resident on the possibility of having bollards fitted to prevent more damage. Clerk has visited the property and will look into further.

#### **03.02.13 - Derbyshire Association of Local Councils**

(a) Circular 02/13 & 03/13 received and emailed to all Cllrs

#### **04.02.2013 – Finance**

##### **(a) Accounts for Payment**

<b>Cheque Number</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>£ Value</b>
000955	H Sargeant – Wages	222.98
000956	H Sargeant – Expenses, flowers	35.20
000957	Parochial Church Grant – P.C.C	350.00
000958	Staples	63.49
000959	Elvaston Village Hall Trust Jan-Dec 12	210.00
000960	South Derbyshire District Council – Refill Grit bins	
	Mill Hill / Sevenlands Drive / Mountfield Way	216.00
000961	First Choice Builders – Repair A6 bus shelter	870.00

##### **(b) Income**

No income this month

#### **05.02.13 - To consider planning applications:-**

None

#### **06.02.13 - Items for information only:-**

Future meetings:-

Gravel Liaison Meetings, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 6pm at Elvaston Castle

Flood Liaison Meeting, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 10.00am, Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Swadlincote.

**Part II – CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

**07.02.13 - Staff Matters**

**Date of the next meeting – The next Parish Council meeting will be Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2013 at 7.30pm**

There being no further business the Chairman, Cllr Strand closed the meeting at 10.10pm

Signed .....

Cllr R Strand – Chairman

Heidi Sargeant - Clerk